

Session Six: (4:1-16)

Living up to Your Calling (4:1-3):

4 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1. Now that Paul has shown how Gentiles have also been reconciled to God, what does Ephesians 4 begin to discuss?
 - a.
2. What is Paul up to referring to himself as a prisoner for the LORD in 4:1?
 - a.
3. What exactly is the calling? Cf. 2:19-22.
 - a. The calling within the callings:
 - i.
4. What is the unity of the Spirit in 4:3?
 - a.

Unity in the Body of Christ 4:4-6):

1. What is the “measure of Christ’s gift” in 4:7?
 - a.
2. What does it mean that God is Father of all, over, through, and in all? See 4:6 and 3:15.
 - a. Of all:
 - i.
 - b. Over all:
 - i.
 - c. Through and in all:
 - i.

The Gifts that Bring Unity (4:7-16):

1. What does it mean that Christ descended? See 4:10.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Why does Paul quote Psalm 68:18?
 - a. Evil:
 - i.
 - b. Gifts:
 - i.
3. What are the gifts which bring unity? See 4:11.
 - a. Apostles

- i.
- b. Prophets
 - i.
- c. Evangelists
 - i.
- d. Pastors
 - i.
- e. Teachers
 - i.
- f. These aren't gifts to seek after but gifts God gives in order to keep us united in Christ. These aren't spiritual gifts but the one gift of Christ himself – our one faith, one baptism, etc.
- g. Christ himself "is the apostle of the Father, the Prophet, the preacher of the Gospel, the Good Shepherd, and the Teacher, who continues to carry out his work through his earthly representatives (Winger, 497).
 - i. These earthly representatives are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, who bring Christ to people.
- h. Thus, it is not the general saint who unites the church, but Christ unites the church through his gifts (i.e. Apostles, evangelists, etc.).
- 4. For what purpose are these gifts given? Through whom? See 4:12.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- 5. What will it look like to have such unity? See 4:13-16.
 - a. Knowing the truth:
 - i.
 - b. Speaking the truth:
 - i.

Take Home:

1. I urge you to always hold fast to Christ, for Christ unites his church through his gifts.
2. Thank God for sending his apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to give the gift of Christ to his people.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you for uniting us as one in Christ. Thank you for sending us your gifts – for the apostles and prophets, for evangelists, for pastors, and for teachers. You certainly give us unity through your gifts as they baptize, teach, and keep us in the one faith in our one Lord, Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.